

Report 2015/1285



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Carrowbreck,  
Drayton High Road, Hellesdon, Norfolk**

ENF135676



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February 2015



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Final Draft Completed	Rob Brown/Jayne Bown	21/01/2015
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<i>Issue 1</i>		

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01-04-15-2-1285

NPS Archaeology

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Location:	Carrowbreck, Drayton High Road, Hellesdon, Norwich
District:	Broadland District Council
Grid Ref.:	TG 1969 1221
Planning Ref.:	20141634
HER No.:	ENF135676
OASIS Ref.:	196624
Client:	Broadland District Council
Dates of Fieldwork:	26 28 November 2014

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## **Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was conducted for NPS Group on behalf of Broadland District Council ahead of housing development works at Carrowbreck, Drayton High Road in Hellesdon, Norfolk.*

*The evaluation consisted of four trenches measuring 15.00m long x 1.80m wide. Each trench contained archaeological remains and a total of 10 features were recorded. The features were all linear, the majority probably representing field boundary ditches. Based on dating evidence, two of the linear features could tentatively be of prehistoric origin, but most of the ditches cannot be dated.*

*One feature interpreted as a road ran across two adjacent trenches. It is unclear whether this was an estate driveway or possibly the route of the original Drayton High Road.*

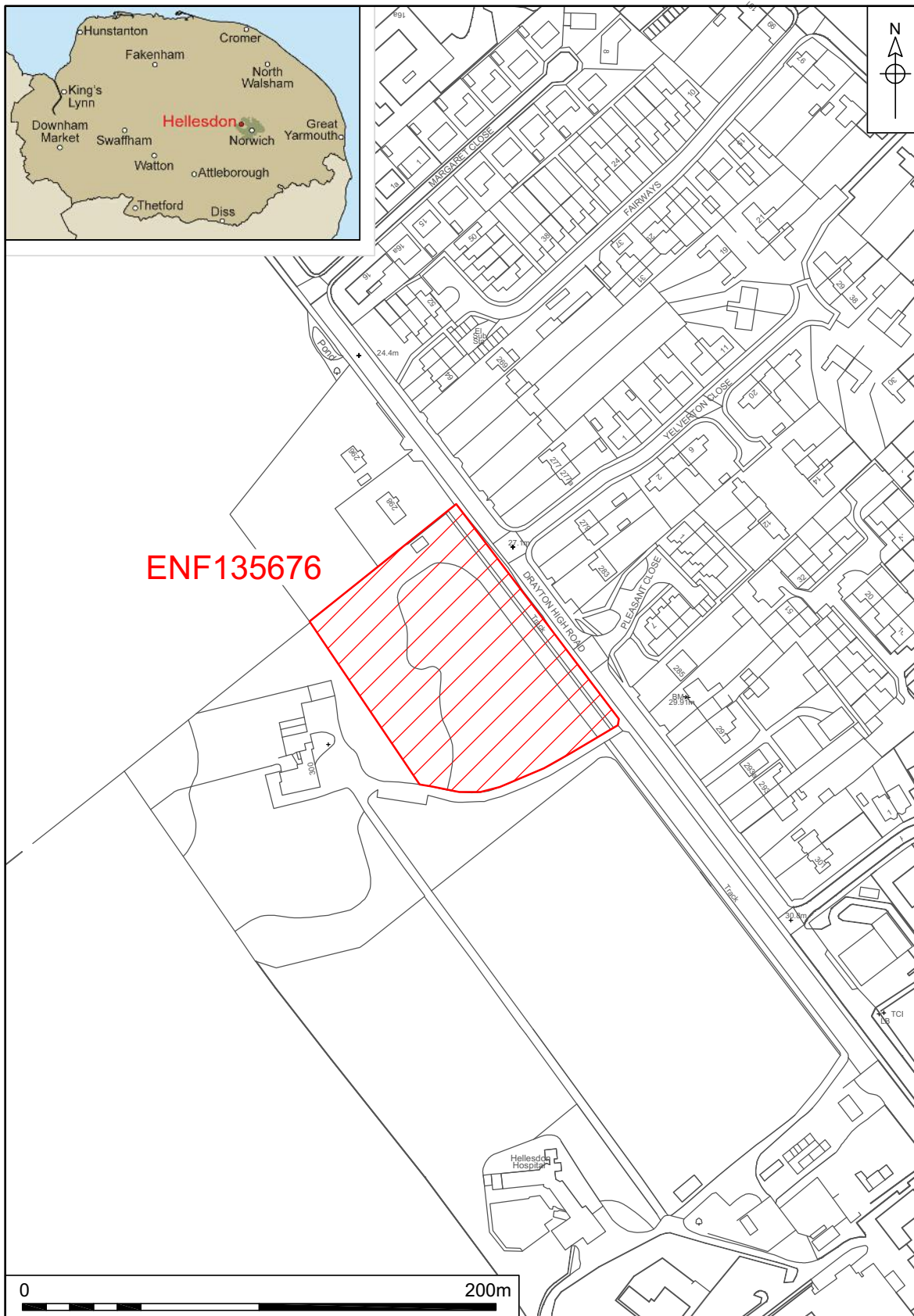
## **1.0**

A trial trench evaluation was carried out ahead of works to build housing on the proposed c. 0.912ha development site at Carrowbreck, Drayton High Road, Hellesdon (Figure 1). The evaluation consisted of the excavation and recording of four 15.00m x 1.80m trenches (Figure 2).

The work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Broadland District Council (planning ref 20141634) and a Brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service. The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (WSI 01-04-15-2-1285). The work was commissioned by NPS Group and funded by Broadland District Council.

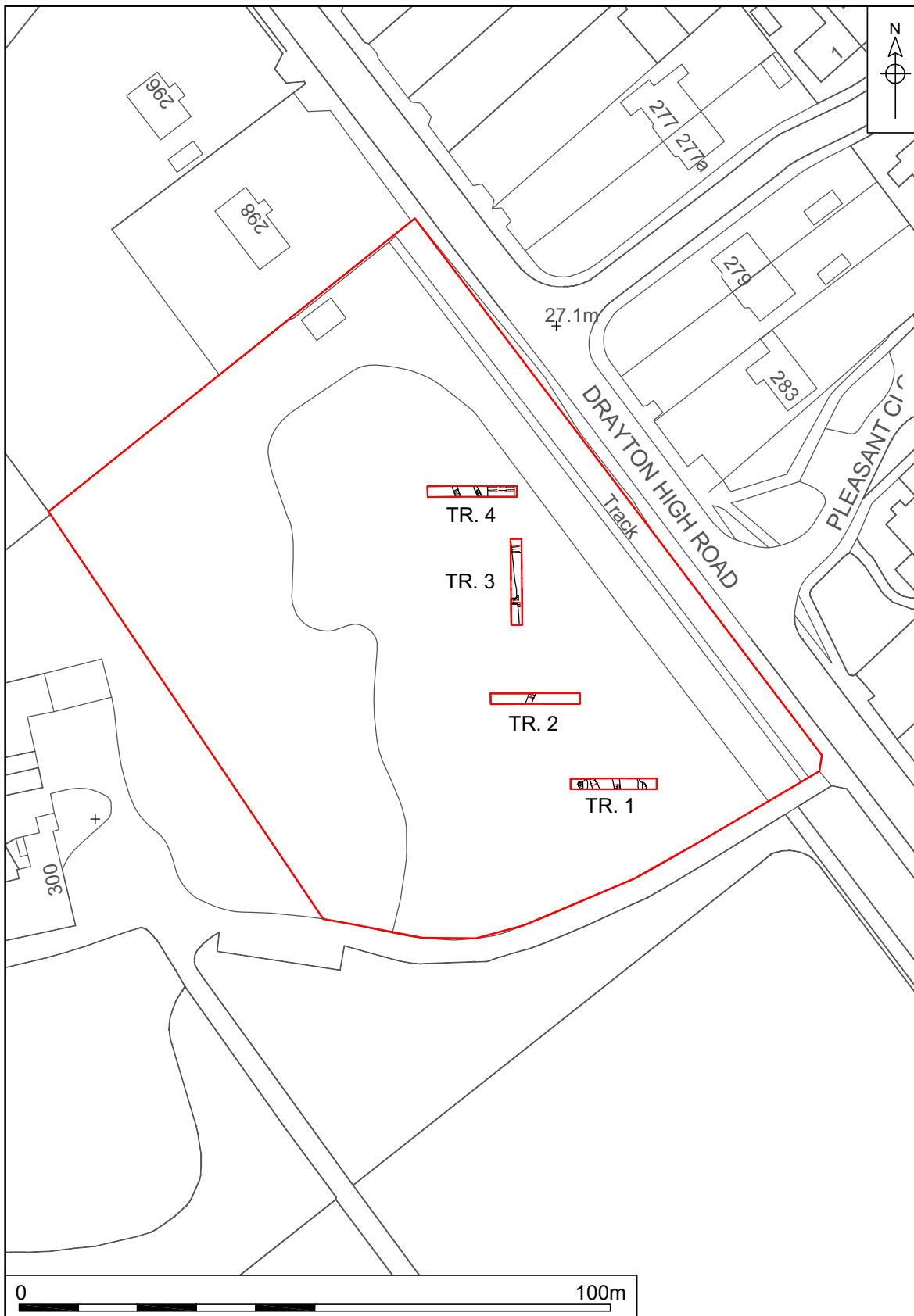
The programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Norfolk Museums Service following relevant policies on archiving standards.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2500



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Figure 2. Location of trenches. Scale 1:1000

## **2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **2.1 Deposits**

#### **2.1.1 *Underlying bedrock***

Geological basal deposits are chalk made up of Lewes Nodular, Seaford, Newhaven, and Culver chalk Formations. These were laid down during the Turonian Age and the Campanian Age (late Cretaceous period), 93.9 million years to 72.1 million years ago (British Geological Survey 1985).

#### **2.1.2 *Superficial deposits***

The superficial deposits are made up of Sheringham Cliffs Formation and consist of sand and gravel deposits laid down during the various ice ages throughout the Pleistocene (later Quaternary period), 2.58 million years to 0.126 million years ago (British Geological Survey 1991).

#### **2.1.3 *Natural***

The natural deposit consisted of mid- to bright yellow sands with some patches of well-sorted gravels. It was frequently disturbed by patches and streaks of mid-yellow brown very sandy silts caused by vegetation roots.

#### **2.1.4 *Subsoil***

The subsoil across the site varied from 0.20m to 0.40m deep. It consisted of an orange to yellow-brown sandy silt with occasional small- to medium-sized stones. There were also darker patches of mid- to dark brown silts caused by extensive rooting.

#### **2.1.5 *Topsoil***

The topsoil varied across the site from 0.20m to 0.30m deep. It consisted of dark grey-brown to black, richly organic soil with moderate small inclusions throughout.

## **2.2 Topography**

The proposed development site is a rectangular clearing, orientated northwest to southeast, situated within and surrounded on three sides by an area of mature trees to the east of Carrowbreck House. The trees are a mix of coniferous and deciduous, the majority of which are mature with some inter-planting of saplings. No trees are present only along the proposed development area's southeast edge. The A1067 Drayton High Road runs beyond the tree belt to the northeast. To the northwest there are two modern houses, which front Drayton High Road, and gardens of which form the northwest boundary of the proposed development site.

Carrowbreck House, its lawns and parking areas are situated to the southwest. It dates from the early 20th century and functions as a training centre. The southeast boundary of the site, along which there are no trees, is formed by the tarmac driveway to Carrowbreck House. Past the driveway there is a line of mature trees and beyond the trees there is a large open grassed area as far as Hellesdon Hospital.

The site is located at the top of the valley of the river Wensum, which lies just over 1km to the west. The open area of ground within the trees is fairly level grassland



with some gentle undulations and deep depressions probably caused by uprooted trees; occasional tree stumps remain. There is a shallow depression running from north to south along the east side of the proposed development site, which may represent a track or possible earlier driveway.

Extant remains of two Second World War air-raid shelters lie within the tree line to the northwest. These are discussed in Section 3.1.7.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER), which details archaeological discoveries and sites of historical interest in Norfolk, was searched for a 1km radius of grid reference TG 1969 1221. The search returned records of 56 finds spots, 19 sites of archaeologically or historically significant structures or places, 11 crop-marks or earthworks and two events.

A range of maps was examined in order to establish the nature of more recent land-use at the proposed development site and the wider landscape within which it is positioned. The maps were also useful in tentatively reconstructing the character of the medieval and early post-medieval landscape. The maps were: Faden's Map of Norfolk 1797 (Barringer 1998a), Enclosure map of Hellesdon 1813, Bryant's Map of Norfolk 1826 (Barringer 1998b), Tithe map of Hellesdon 1839, Ordnance Survey maps from 1880s onwards (see Section 3.2).

#### **3.1 Norfolk Historic Environment Records**

##### **3.1.1 Prehistoric Evidence**

There are 53 entries in the NHER for the prehistoric period. These constitute the majority of records within the 1km search area. Most of these entries are of find spots recorded by field-walking or metal-detecting. They range in date from early prehistoric times (Palaeolithic) through to the Iron Age.

The distribution of prehistoric find spots shows a bias towards the open fields closest to the river Wensum to the west of the proposed development site. None are contained within the site itself, with the closest find spot—a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead (NHER 54782)—c. 92m to the east of the site. At least two possible flint-working sites (NHER 7859 and 7890) have been identified. These interpretations are tentative however, as the only evidence is the quantity of flint found in the vicinity. One of the sites is located c. 400m to the north, and the other c. 1km to the northwest.

Crop-marks of a ring-ditch recorded on aerial photographs (NHER 54454) are located c. 500m to the west of the proposed development site. These probably represent the remains of a Bronze Age barrow c. 17.50m across.

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at the former David Rice Hospital (NHER 51058) c. 700m to the northwest of the site. This consisted of 50 1.00m x 1.00m test pits and 15 evaluation trenches of various sizes. While many of the excavated areas only produced evidence of modern disturbance by the hospital foundations and later demolition of the buildings, a small number of features predating the hospital were found. These consisted of a tree hollow containing numerous artefacts dating to the Neolithic/Bronze Age, a prehistoric pit, and several linear features of uncertain date. An assemblage of 137 prehistoric flint

objects, much of which is of Neolithic/Bronze Age date, with one or two Palaeolithic flakes and one Mesolithic microlith, was recovered.

### **3.1.2 Roman Evidence**

There are a total of 16 entries in the NHER relating to the Roman period. None fall within the proposed development area. As with the prehistoric period, many of these are find spots recorded during field-walking and metal-detecting. There is also a bias towards the majority of the find spots being in more open fields west of the proposed development site, closer to the river Wensum.

Two sites of interest lie within the study area; both are of crop-marks identified from aerial photographs.

Approximately 520m to the north of the site, there are crop-marks of an incomplete rectangular enclosure and associated ditches of unknown, but possibly Roman date (NHER 36405). Two sides of the enclosure are visible, and measure at least 50m by 66m. The enclosure follows the same alignment as the field system and series of track ways to the north (NHER 18192; outside the study area), which may also be Roman in date, and from this it has been presumed that they may all be contemporary. An archaeological evaluation of this site (ENF 127091, Crawley 2011) revealed no trace of the supposed Roman enclosure and field system, and it is believed that agricultural processes over the intervening years between identification of the crop-marks on aerial photographs and the evaluation had eroded the features.

A second area of crop-marks is located 420m to the west of the site (NHER 54455), and comprises a series of ditches of unknown, but possibly Roman date. The site consists of fragmentary linear and rectangular sections of ditches, the majority of which run either parallel or perpendicular to one another, and are likely to form a field system. The speculative date has been arrived at due to the presence of Roman find spots in the vicinity, although this still remains tentative, as it has not been tested through excavation.

### **3.1.3 Anglo-Saxon Evidence**

Only four sites relating to Anglo-Saxon evidence are recorded within the study area, all of which lie to the west of the 1km radius, within the valley of the river Wensum: there are none within the proposed development area. All of the sites are find spots and include Early, Middle and Late Saxon material. The only Early Saxon find is of a single object. Unusually, the remaining three sites all have Middle Saxon evidence as well as Later Saxon material. Middle Saxon material is comparatively rare, and is therefore generally of historical interest.

### **3.1.4 Medieval Evidence**

All of the medieval records, a total of 12 from the search area, represent finds evidence, including the medieval pottery recorded at the archaeological evaluation at the former David Rice Hospital (NHER 51058). None of the NHER records are within the proposed development area.

The manor of Hellesdon is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Hailesduna*, and that it was owned by Godwin Haldane (or Healfdene) at that time (Brown 1984). The manor was previously held by Stigand and contained woodland, meadow, pigs, sheep, goats, a fishery and two mills. The medieval

parish church of Hellesdon is located 1.40km to the south of the site in the earliest part of the village settlement, and it seems likely that the present site has always been peripheral.

### **3.1.5 Medieval to Post-medieval Evidence**

Two records, neither within the proposed development area, are of the medieval to post-medieval period. One is a buckle found by metal-detecting in 2006 (NHER 50071), and the second is crop-marks of field boundaries of possible medieval to post-medieval date (NHER 54456).

The crop-marks consist of a series of ditches probably forming field boundaries and land divisions. The NHER records that the ditches are all aligned along, or perpendicular to, the dominant alignment of the medieval to post-medieval landscape, and as such are likely to be broadly of this date.

Both of the records of the medieval and post-medieval period are located over 500m away from the development site.

### **3.1.6 Post-medieval Evidence**

Fourteen records of post-medieval data are recorded on the NHER; the closest to the development site is the site of a post-medieval windmill (NHER 18096), which lies c. 260m to the south on the present site of Hellesdon Hospital. The site of the windmill is marked on an Ordnance Survey map of 1836, but by the Ordnance Survey maps of the 1880s the 'Norwich Lunatic Asylum' is recorded on the same site.

Approximately 700m to the northwest of the study area, two undated banks and a possible trench (NHER 12405) have been recorded close to an area known as 'Blood Dale', where local legend maintains the name derives from a battle that took place in Drayton, although none of this can be substantiated. Aerial photographs revealed 'relatively neat well-defined earthwork banks to either side of a semi-sunken path. These features did not particularly have the appearance of being of any great antiquity' (NHER). The Tithe map of 1839 and the later Ordnance Survey maps that were checked did not depict the route, and therefore it is thought that the banks are most likely to be relatively modern.

An archaeological evaluation at Canham's Hill (ENF 127091; Crawley 2011) recorded ditches of likely post-medieval date, but they do not appear on the Tithe map or the 1880s Ordnance Survey, and do not fit readily with the modern field systems; they could therefore be earlier.

Two 19th-century milestones are recorded in the area, one marking 'Fakenham 22 miles, Norwich 2 miles' (NHER 56408), and the second marking 'Fakenham 21 miles, Norwich 3 miles' (NHER 56409); both incorporate an Ordnance Survey benchmark. These are two of twelve surviving milestones along the former Norwich–Fakenham turnpike, which was created in 1823 and disturnpiked in 1880. The two milestones each lie c. 760m distant from the site.

Part of the route of the Midland and Great Northern Joint Railway runs through the area (NHER 13584), a 19th-century line that linked Norwich to Cromer via Holt. The section from Norwich–Melton Constable opened in 1882, with the extension to Holt opened in 1884 and the continuation to Cromer in 1887. All but the Cromer–Sheringham section (which is now part of the Bittern Line) closed to trains in 1964.

The Norwich–Reepham section is now part of the Marriott's Way, a footpath and cycle track.

The remainder of the NHER sites recorded represent finds evidence only, and all lie to the west half of the study area.

### **3.1.7 *Second World War and Modern Evidence***

Being on the outskirts of Norwich, Hellesdon was a strategic location for Second World War defences. The area holds noteworthy evidence for this period, although much of it may no longer be extant. The site itself contains evidence from the period that remains intact. Two semi-sunken air-raid shelters are recorded (NHER 54469) within the wooded area in the northwest corner of the site. A site visit undertaken as part of this evaluation established that the structures are still present and may warrant further investigation to examine how intact they are, although being in woodland it is unlikely that they will be affected by any development here.

Many other air-raid shelters are recorded in the area (NHER 53504, 53520, 54398 and 54480). One of these records relates to at least 41 above-ground public air-raid shelters and two possible ARP posts (NHER 53504) in an area c. 2km x 2km between Hellesdon and north Norwich. Further shelters were on land to the west of Middletons Lane, where an area of at least eight industrial underground air-raid shelters (NHER 53520) were visible as two rows of four earthwork mounds in 1953. In the grounds of Hellesdon Hospital there are also the earthworks and structural remains of earth-covered semi-sunken and underground shelters (NHER 54480). At least one surface shelter may also have been present. The site of yet more air-raid shelters and an emergency water tank is visible on aerial photographs at the David Rice Hospital (NHER 54398). The shelters consist of both surface and semi-sunken earth-covered structures.

Part of the anti-tank defences around Norwich also run through the study area, to the southeast of the proposed development site (NHER 51893). The defences included a ditch with an intermittent associated bank, anti-tank cubes, and pillboxes and spigot mortars at strategic points. Further anti-tank defences are present nearby, with 24 very rare anti-tank rails made from railway tracks embedded in concrete blocks (NHER 32490). A pillbox, one of the sole surviving examples from Norwich's perimeter defences (NHER 32546), is also part of the defences.

Earthworks relating to a Second World War military training site are visible on aerial photographs in Drayton Woods, and consist of, most significantly, a number of large weapons pits and areas of disturbed ground (NHER 54397). An anti-aircraft battery is recorded at the northeast edge of the study area (NHER 34203) and consists of a north–south line of four gun emplacements with a command post and accommodation huts. The NHER records that this site was not visible on the 1942 aerial photographs, but is on those from 1944, when the site changes character between March and May of that year. By 1952, the site had been demolished.

One definite and one possible emergency water tank are recorded in the area. The first is visible on aerial photographs at the junction of Middletons Lane and Woodland Road and externally measures 8.0m in diameter (NHER 53597). This feature was still visible in 1947. The possible emergency water tank is visible on

aerial photographs in the Royal Norwich Golf Course (NHER 53526) and measures 5.2m square externally.

A line of three probable bomb craters is visible on aerial photographs to the south of Wensum Mount Farm (NHER 54401). A central pit is apparently only clearly visible within one of the disturbed areas, and it is possible that the features are actually areas of worn ground associated with animal feeders (according to the NHER).

The only modern evidence from the area, which is not related to the Second World War, is for a Royal Observer Corps post (NHER 35393), which opened in 1959 and closed in 1991. The building was apparently demolished in 1992, but the underground room may remain sealed.

### **3.1.8 Undated Evidence**

Most of the undated NHER sites are of crop-marks or earthworks where there has been no investigation of the features and there is no distinctive pattern to them to assist dating. The closest to the site are two areas of crop-marks (NHER 54484 and 54485), both of field boundaries/ditches that have been recorded from aerial photography; the sites lie c. 150m and c. 100m away from the site. Further undated crop-marks of probable multi-period ditches are recorded towards the southwest edge of the study area (NHER 54467).

To the north of the study area, a geophysical survey (NHER 55849) followed by an archaeological evaluation (ENF 127091, Crawley 2011) was undertaken in 2011 at Canham's Hill, c. 500m distant from the site. The geophysical survey produced largely negative results, and the evaluation only recorded (prehistoric and post-medieval) archaeological evidence in 10 out of 95 trenches.

An undated mound or bank was recorded c. 870m to the north of the site (NHER 7891), which was apparently cut through in 1938. The name 'Dead Man's Grove' was recorded on a field map of 1817, and is located c. 885m to the north of the study site. It has been suggested there may be burials here, but a watching brief during the construction of a cable trench recorded no features or finds at the site.

## **3.2 Cartographic Evidence**

The information presented below has been adapted from an archaeological desk-based assessment carried out for the proposed development at Carrowbreck (Sillwood 2014). It details a map regression exercise to establish the historical context of the study site. Maps were consulted at the Norfolk Record Office (NRO).

The earliest map examined as part of this assessment was *Faden's map of Norfolk* (1797) (Barringer 1989), and as the landscape around Norwich has changed significantly over the ensuing two hundred years it was difficult to place a small site such as Carrowbreck into its appropriate context (Figure 3). In this study, therefore, the current development area has been placed as accurately as possible referencing persistent landmarks, although it is conceivable that its location is not always precise.

The road along which the site is situated, Drayton High Road, is relatively evident on Faden's map. The village of Hellesdon is shown to the south of the proposed development, with the church, a few houses and both 'Hellesdon New Hall' and 'Hellesdon Old Hall'. The Wensum River meanders to the west of the site, with



Figure3.Faden'sMapofNorfolk,1797



Figure4.EnclosureMapofHellesdon,1813

'Castesey Common' on its west side. Land to the east of Drayton High Road is labelled both 'Drayton Heath' and 'lately Enclosed'; the plotting of 'New Farm' gives a further hint to the nature of landscape change in the area in the late 18th century. To the southeast of the enclosed heath, 'Hellesdon Poor Ho' is marked close to the junction of modern Boundary Road with Reepham Road.

The Enclosure map of Hellesdon, 1813 (NRO Ref. C/Sca 2/98) was the next earliest available map, and whilst in some respects it presents more information in terms of land division and ownership, it lacks some of the topographic detail of Faden (Figure 4). It was difficult, then, to place the site precisely, and in so doing it is assumed that the road south of the study site off Drayton High Road, named 'No 1 Private' and labelled 'To Catton', is Middletons Lane. This places the Carrowbreck site in an area with no detail shown, which could mean that the land was not enclosed at this time. Indeed, from the evidence presented by the Enclosure map, it seems that not much of Hellesdon was enclosed. It may be that the land was marginal and had not been improved for farming or other use. Chas Berners Esq. (whose family owned the land around the study site at the time of the 1839 Tithe map), owns a narrow strip along Drayton High Road south of 'No 1 Private'/Middletons Lane. The land opposite the study site on the east side of Drayton High road is held by Rob. Napier Raikes, whilst south of 'No. 1 Private' the land is held by Jerem. Ives Esq., Thos. Kiddell, and a portion is ascribed to 'The Lord Bishop of Norwich for his right of Sheepwalk', a description that may hint at rough or unimproved land.

*Bryant's Map of Norfolk in 1826* (Barringer 1998), owes more to Faden in its stylised topographic presentation, and this creates a little uncertainty in locating modern places accurately (Figure 5). The depiction of a mill, which is not recorded previously or since, close to the assumed position of the study site, is a little unclear, and may perhaps be erroneous. A toll booth is shown close to the junction of Drayton High Road turnpike and Middletons Lane.

It is possible to place the site location with greater confidence on the Tithe map of 1839 (NRO Ref. DN/TA 185) (Figure 6). All of the land locally is shown enclosed and subdivided and the development site lies in the northeast corner of a large field labelled '14'. The field is listed in the accompanying apportionment as 'Carrot Breck' and described as arable land. The landowners are listed as Edward Berners, the Lord Bishop of Norwich, and the Venerable Henry Denny (lessee), whilst the occupier is Amy Howard. Wensum Mount Farm is located to the southwest of the study site, adjacent to Low Road.

The study site remains part of a large field on the Ordnance Survey map of the 1880s (NRO) (Figure 7). The field is of the same shape and size as shown in 1839, as are many of the fields surrounding the area. There is a significant change in the field to the south of the study site, however, which is occupied by the 'Norwich Lunatic Asylum'. In the field north of the study site, an 'Old Marl Pit' is recorded, which may be close to the position of the mill depicted by Bryant. Wensum Mount Farm is shown, although is not named as such. Other landscape features, including 'Rabbit's Hill' and 'Bloods Dale' are also depicted, along with the 'Eastern & Midlands Railway'.

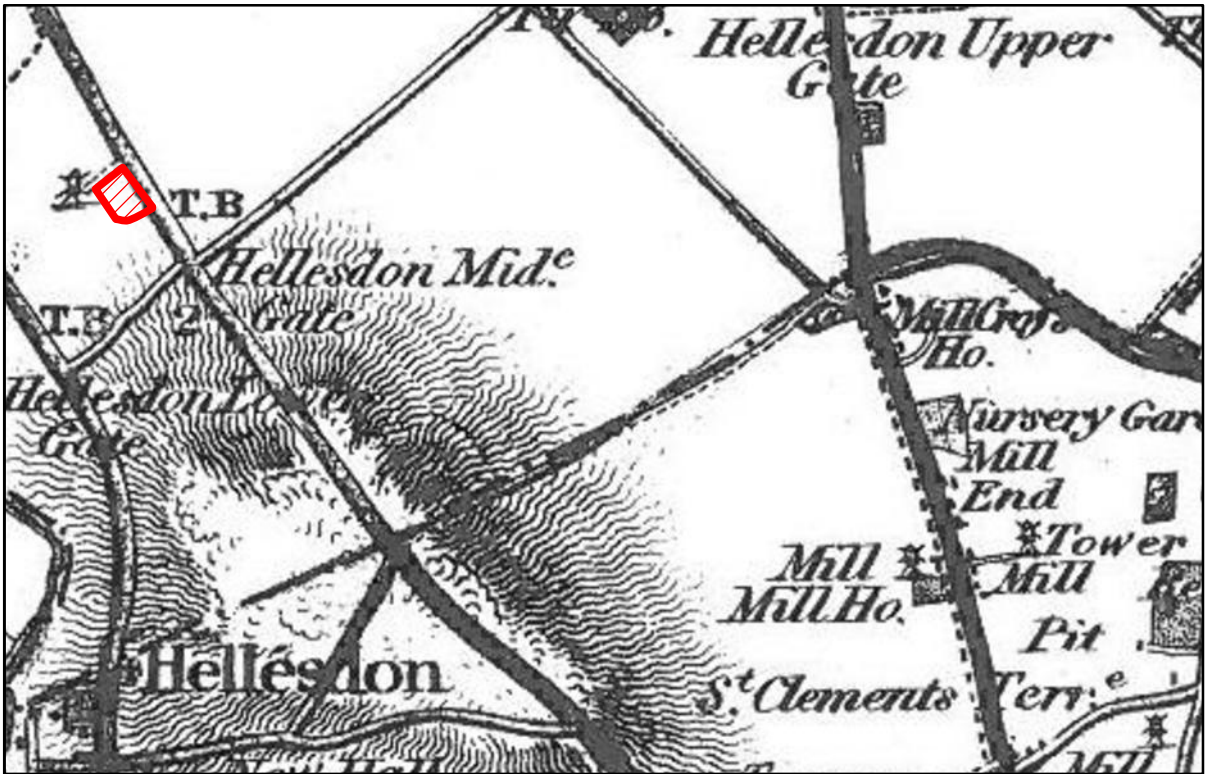


Figure 5. Bryant's Map of Norfolk, 1826

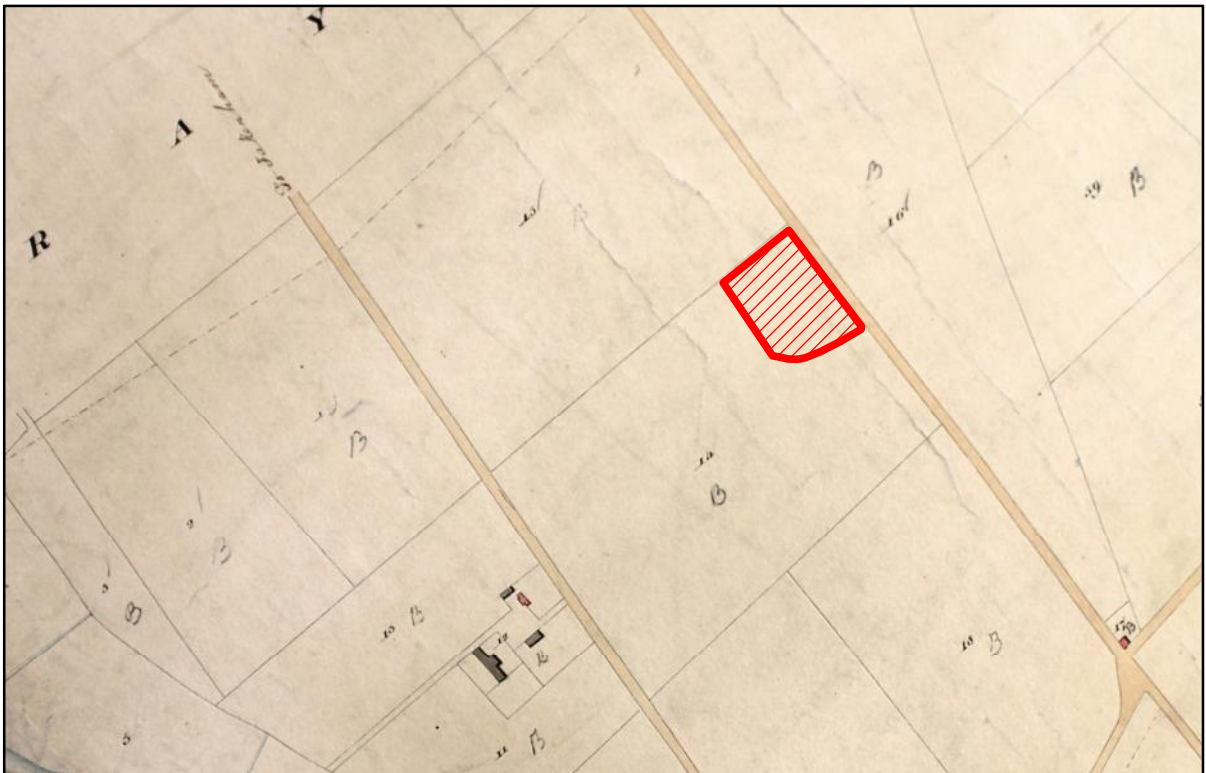


Figure 6. Tithe Map of Helleston, 1839



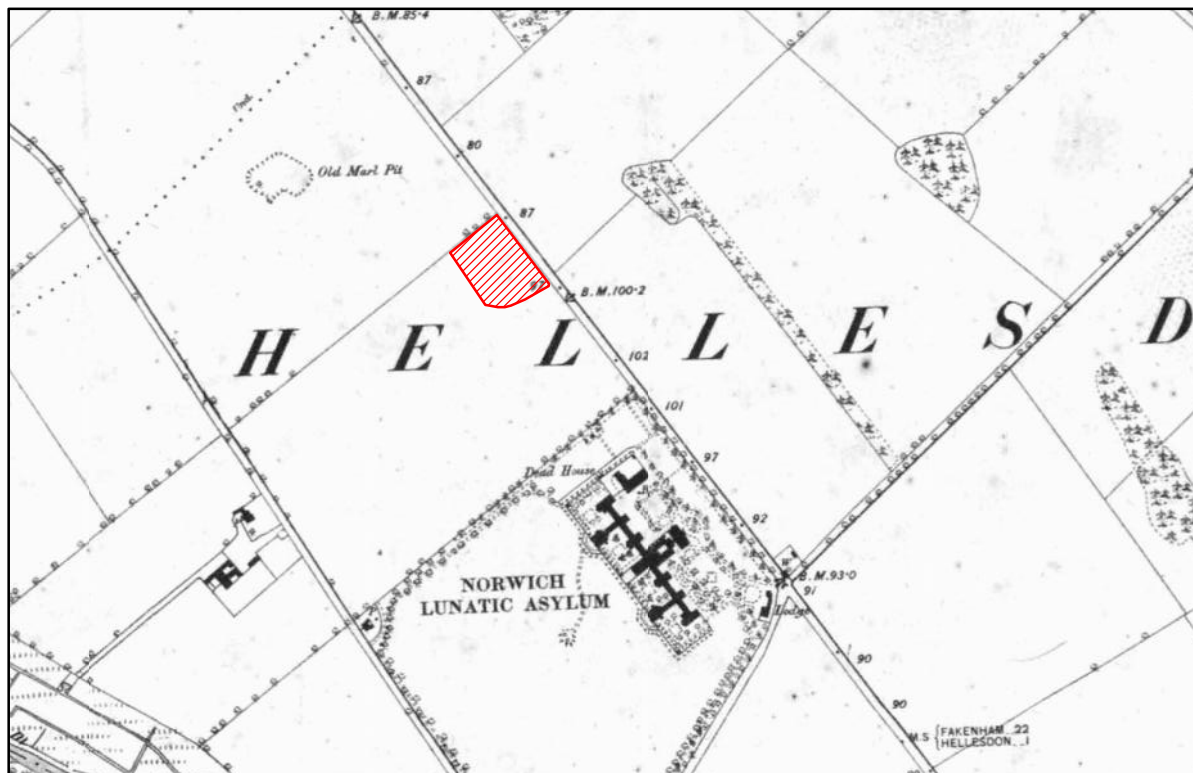


Figure 7. Ordnance Survey Map, 1880s

The Ordnance Survey map of 1908 (NRO) shows few changes in the area; the site remains the same, and only three houses have been built further to the south on Drayton High Road. By the 1928 Ordnance Survey map (NRO), Carrowbreck House has been built, and is set in its own parcel of the large field, with trees planted around its garden. Buildings with gardens have appeared on the opposite side of Drayton High Road to Carrowbreck House, and a nursery is depicted adjacent to the south of the study site. By 1938, there is a little more development around the edges of Norwich, although the immediate vicinity of the site remains the same. The 1955 Ordnance Survey map shows that the area opposite the site is filled-in with cul-de-sacs and housing. Little else in the area has changed significantly up to the present time, and the area in the vicinity of the Wensum remains undeveloped.

Google Maps imagery shows possible marks in the field to the north of the study site, and also in the field to the west, where a large circular/oval mark is visible. These marks may be geological in nature, but it is worth noting their presence. A large circular mark may be a pond or former quarry pit, but may also be one of the periglacial hollows sometimes recorded in Norfolk.

## **4.0**

The objective of the evaluation excavation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits in the development area.

The Brief required the excavation of four 15.00m x 1.80m trenches totalling 108m<sup>2</sup> on the c. 0.912ha proposed development site.

Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision by a hydraulic 360 excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds other than those that were obviously modern were retained for inspection.


Environmental samples were not taken as no suitable deposits were present.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Colour, monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

The temporary benchmark used during the course of the work was transferred from an Ordnance Survey benchmark with a value of 27.10m OD located on the A1067 Drayton High Road.

Site conditions were poor with the work taking place in overcast and rainy conditions.

## 5.0

Trench1				
 <p>Plate 1. Trench 1</p>		<b>Figure2, 8, Plates1,2,3</b>		
		<b>Location</b>		
		Orientation	East west	
		<b>Dimensions</b>		
		Length	15.00m	
		Width	1.80m	
		Depth	0.55m	
<b>Levels</b>				
East top	28.66m OD			
West top	28.42m OD			
Context	Type	DescriptionandInterpretation	Thickness	DepthBGL
09	Cut	Linear feature running north south across the width of the trench. Contained a single fill and measured 0.45m wide. This ran alongside feature [11].	0.19m	0.63 0.82m
10	Deposit	Single fill of feature [09]; mid-orange brown silty sand with occasional small stone inclusions.	0.19m	0.63 0.82m
11	Cut	Linear feature running north south across the width of the trench. Contained a single fill and measured 0.60m wide. This ran alongside feature [09].	0.10m	0.63 0.73m
12	Deposit	Single fill of feature [11]; mid-orange brown silty sand with occasional small stone inclusions.	0.10m	0.63 0.73m
13	Cut	Linear feature running northwest southeast across the width of the trench. Contained a single fill and measured 0.65m wide.	0.16m	0.80 0.96m
14	Deposit	Single fill of feature [11]; pale orange brown silty sand with occasional small stone inclusions.	0.16m	0.80 0.96m
Discussion				

## Trench1

Trench 1 contained three features of archaeological interest and two natural features, which were excavated to confirm their nature. The two natural features were tree-throws. The archaeological features were linear and are likely to represent the ditched boundaries of different phases of field systems within the landscape. Linear features [09] and [11] are of interest as they run parallel to each other. No dating evidence was recovered for any of the features.



Plate 2. Ditch [09]



Plate 3. Ditches [11] and [13]

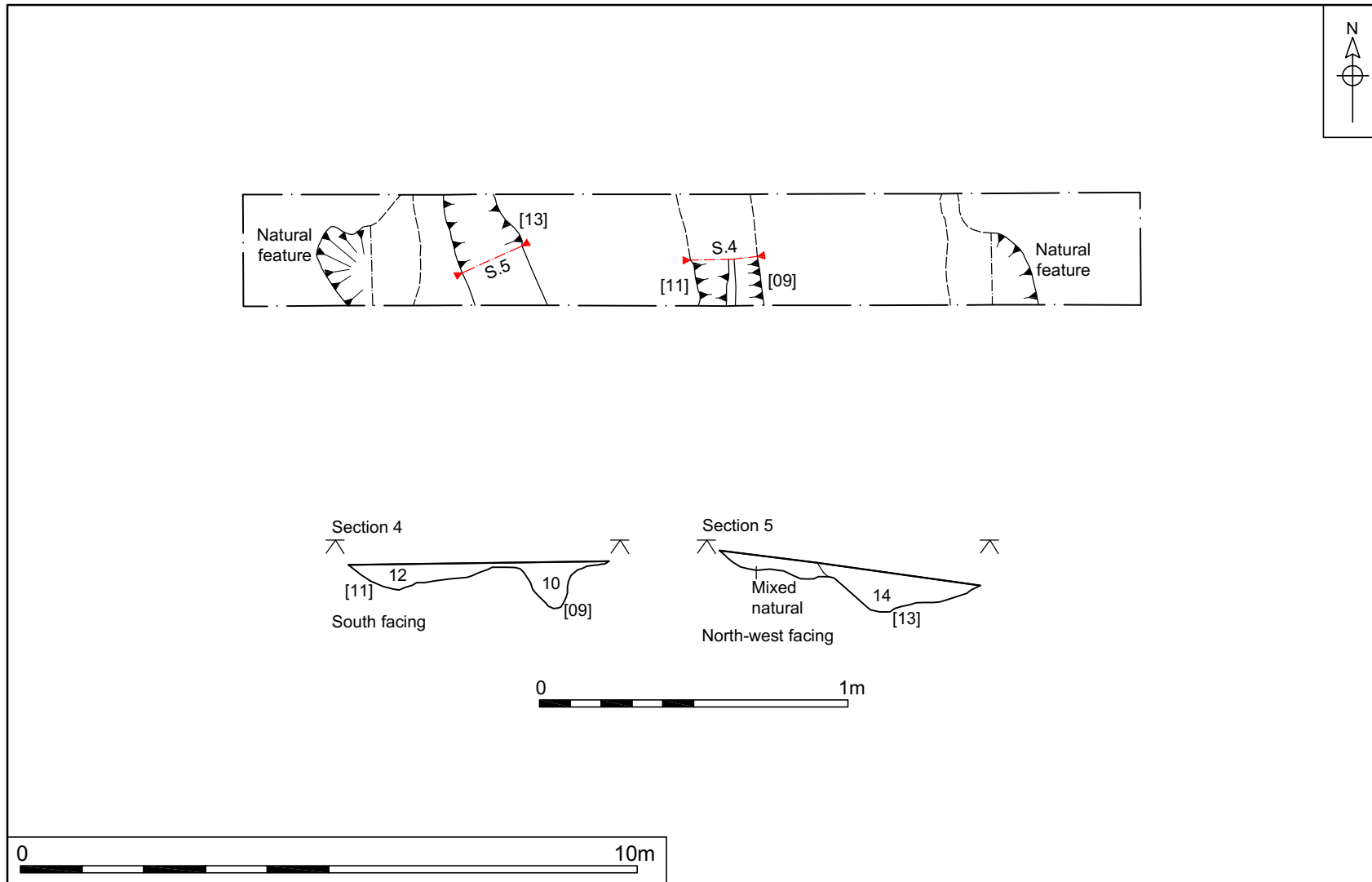


Figure 8. Trench 1, plan and sections. Scale 1:100 and 1:25

## Trench2



Plate 4. Trench 2

### Figure2, 9, Plates4,5

#### Location

Orientation East west

#### Dimensions

Length 15.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth East end 0.73m  
West end 0.43m

#### Levels

East top 28.26m OD

West top 28.10m OD

Context	Type	DescriptionandInterpretation	Thickness	DepthBGL
29	Cut	Linear feature running northeast southwest across the width of the trench. Contained a single fill and measured 0.95m wide.	0.06m	0.44 0.50m
30	Deposit	Single fill of feature [29]; pale pinkish yellow, very sandy silt, with frequent patches of pale yellow sands and occasional small stone inclusions.	0.06m	0.44 0.50m

#### Discussion

Trench 2 contained a single ditch running from northeast southwest. When exposed by machining the feature was ephemeral and hardly distinguishable from the natural it cut. Excavation proved it to be a shallow ditch, from which a number of flints were collected. The finds date the ditch potentially to the prehistoric period.



Plate 5. Ditch [29]

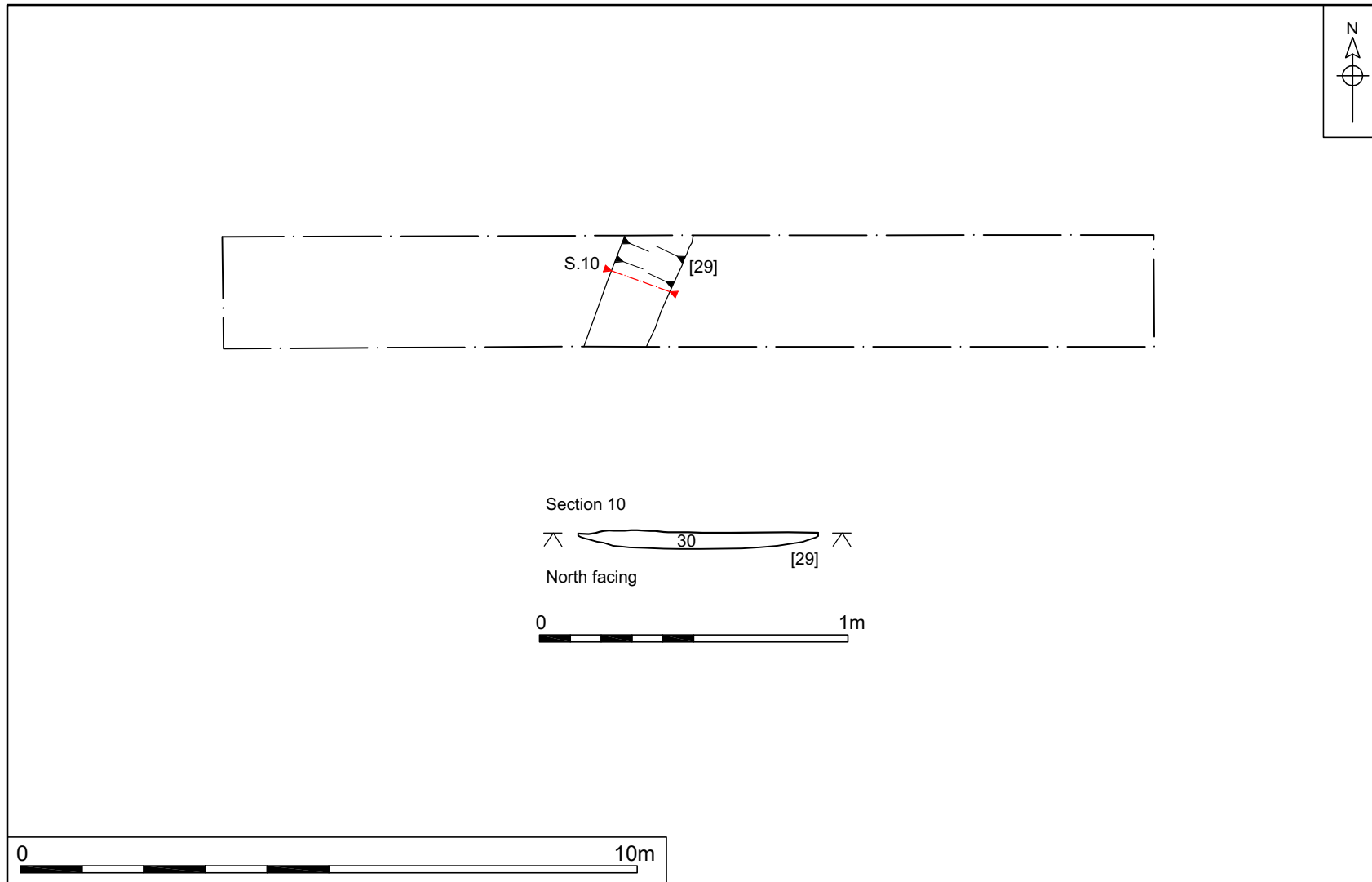


Figure 9. Trench 2, plan and section. Scale 1:100 and 1:25




Trench3				
		<b>Figure2, 10, Plates6 ,7,8</b>		
		<b>Location</b>		
		Orientation	North south	
		<b>Dimensions</b>		
		Length	15.00m	
		Width	1.80m	
		Depth	0.50m	
		<b>Levels</b>		
North top	27.71m OD			
South top	27.96m OD			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Descriptionand Interpretation</b>	<b>Thickness</b>	<b>DepthBGL</b>
15	Cut	Part of a possible roadway, of which only the west side was exposed. It measured 1.50m wide and had a single fill. It is the same as [03], [26] and [19].	0.25m	0.50 0.75m
16	Deposit	Single fill of possible roadway [15], consisting of mid-brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal, cbm, chalk and mortar. It is the same as (04), (27) and (20).	0.25m	0.50 0.75m
17	Cut	Single ditch running east west across the width of the trench and cut by the roadway. It contained a single fill and measured 1m wide. Same as [21] and [23].	0.25m	0.58 0.83m
18	Deposit	Single homogeneous fill of ditch [17], consisting of mid-orange brown silty sand with occasional small medium erratic inclusions. Same as [22].	0.25m	0.58 0.83m
19	Cut	Roadway, same as [15], [26] and [03], cut ditch [17].	0.20m	0.58 0.78m
20	Deposit	Single fill of [19]. The fill is the same as (16), (27) and (04).	0.20m	0.58 0.78m
21	Cut	East west ditch, same as [17] and [23], where it was cut by roadway [15] and [19].	0.27m	0.58 0.85m

Plate 6. Trench 3

<b>Trench3</b>				
22	Deposit	Single fill of [21]. The fill is the same as (18) and (24).	0.27m	0.58 0.85m
23	Cut	Ditch same as [17] and [21] with modern dump of material in its top part.	0.19m	0.58 0.77m
24	Deposit	Fill of ditch, same as (18) and (22), cut by dump of modern material (25).	0.19m	0.58 0.77m
25	Deposit	Dump of modern material contained in the top of [23] and [26].	0.15m	0.58 0.73m
26	Cut	Roadway same as [03], [15] and [19]; cut by dump of modern material in its top part.	0.21m	0.58 0.79m
27	Deposit	Fill of roadway, same as (04), (16) and (20) cut by dump of modern material (28)	0.21m	0.58 0.79m
28	Deposit	Dump of modern material contained in the top of [23] and [26]	0.10m	0.58 0.68m
<b>Discussion</b>				
Trench 3 contained three potential features.				
The first was a possible roadway that runs the length of the trench in a slightly west of north east of south direction. Only part of the width of the feature was observed in the trench, although its full width was exposed in Trench 4. It is broadly 18th/19th-century in date. It cut a second feature, a ditch that ran from east west that cannot be date. The third feature was a dump of modern material that cut into the top of both the ditch and the roadway at the point that they intersect.				



Plate 7. Roadway [15]



Plate 8. Ditch [17]

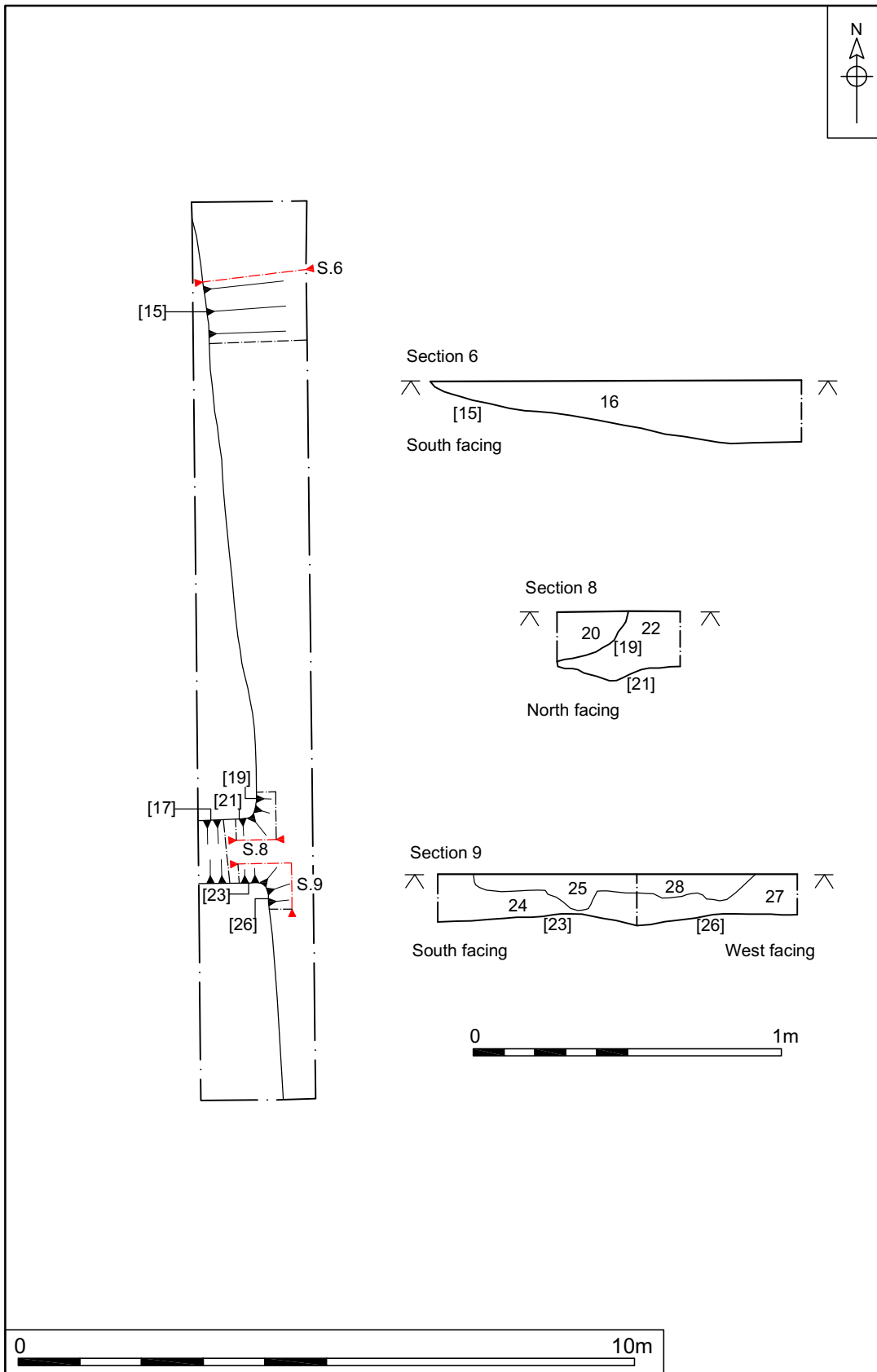


Figure 10. Trench 3, plan and sections. Scale 1:100 and 1:25

## Trench4



Plate 9. Trench 4

### Figure2, 11, Plates9,10,11,12

#### Location

Orientation East west

#### Dimensions

Length 15.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.55m

#### Levels

East top 27.56m OD

West top 27.62m OD

Context	Type	DescriptionandInterpretation	Thickness	DepthBGL
03	Cut	Probably a roadway. Contained a single fill and is the same as [15], [26] and [19] in Trench 3. It crossed the width of the trench and was 4.50m wide.	0.20m	0.54 0.74m
04	Deposit	Single fill of possible roadway [03], consisting of mid-brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal, cbm, chalk and mortar. It is the same as (16), (27) and (20) in Trench 3.	0.20m	0.54 0.74m
05	Cut	Ditch that ran across the width of the trench northwest southeast. Measured 0.65m wide and contained a single fill.	0.24m	0.55 0.79m
06	Deposit	Single fill of ditch [05] consisting of mid-grey sandy silt with a little clay content and some charcoal flecks throughout.	0.24m	0.55 0.79m
07	Cut	This ditch crossed the width of the trench from northwest southeast and contained a single fill. It was 0.75m wide.	0.20m	0.50 0.70m
08	Deposit	Single fill of ditch [07]; pale pinkie grey sandy silt with no inclusions.	0.20m	0.50 0.70m

#### Discussion

Trench 4 contained three features, one of which was the possible 18th/19th-century roadway recorded in Trench 3. The two other features were ditches. These ran parallel to one another, 2.75m apart. However, they were quite different in character, so it cannot be inferred whether they were contemporary. The west ditch [07] contained finds that date it broadly to the prehistoric period.



Plate 10. Roadway [03]



Plate 11. Ditch [05]



Plate 12. Ditch [07]

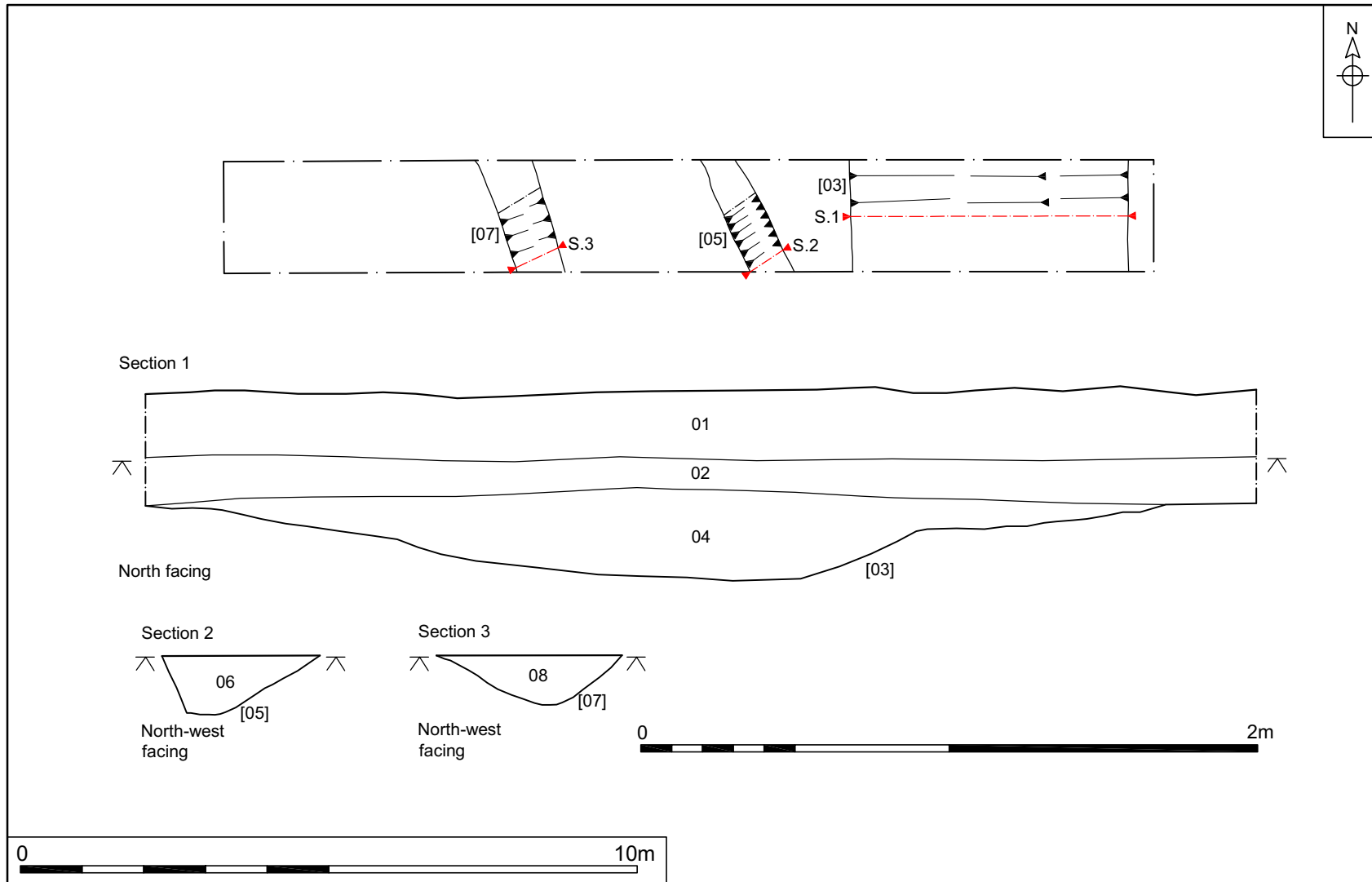


Figure 11. Trench 4, plan and sections. Scale 1:100 and 1:25



## **6.0 U**

Finds were processed and recorded by count and weight, and the data were entered onto a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. Each material type was considered separately and is presented below by material. A list of finds in context number order is in Appendix 2a.

### **6**

by Rebecca Sillwood

Ten pieces of post-medieval pottery, weighing 52g, were recovered from two contexts. Seven pieces were found in driveway [03]/fill (04), and three in ditch [15]/fill (16).

Most of the pieces were body sherds, although a small base sherd was found in (16) and two rim sherds in (04). The pieces are a mixture of white- and blue-glazed and - blue and white transfer-printed wares, along with a few earthenware pieces, some glazed brown, others with no glaze. The vessels represented probably include plates, possibly cups, and jugs or jars.

The pottery sherds are all likely to be later post-medieval in date, ranging from 18th 20th century.

### **d U U**

by Rebecca Sillwood

Seven pieces of post-medieval brick and tile were recovered from two contexts, driveway [03]/fill (04) and ditch [15]/fill (16). The pieces weigh 216g and mainly represent roof tiles, but some fragments of brick are also present.

The only complete measurement on any of these fragments is the thickness of the roof tiles, which range from 12 14mm. The tile fragments from (04) may be from the same individual tile, as they are in very similar pale pinkish-range fabric. The fragment of tile from (16) is slightly redder and retains mortar on the three finished edges. Brick fragments found in (15) are all of a similar type, a hard-fired reddish sandy type, probably of 19th-century date.

### **ai**

by Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered nine pieces (165g) of struck flint in an un-patinated, well-preserved condition (Appendix 3). The struck flint derived from two ditches, with the material from each contrasting in technological character.

Ditch [07]/fill (08) contained four pieces (80g) consistent with the blade-based technology of the earlier Neolithic, including a core fragment and debitage. The core fragment had been deliberately removed using soft-hammer percussion from a cuboid blade core, presumably to create a new striking platform as it was rotated, and exhibited partial or whole parallel removal scars of three former perpendicular platforms, including a faceted butt. The presence of the three platforms combined with the length (50mm) of the flake suggests a high degree of care invested in maintaining the core to maximise productivity, while the debitage

flakes are consistent with those that would be removed from such a core. The flint in this group is of good quality dark grey raw material, with a white chalky cortex typical of that carefully sourced from the primary chalk deposits that underlie central Norfolk.

In contrast, the five pieces (85g) from ditch [29]/fill (30) are characteristic of the decline in skill or care typical of later Neolithic–Early Bronze Age flint work. This group includes an end scraper manufactured using coarse abrupt retouch applied to the thick bulbar end of a flake removed using hard-hammer percussion. The remaining flint in this group comprises broad-squat tertiary debitage flakes that also exhibit the pronounced bulbs of percussion and stepped terminations that result from the less accurate control of force when a hard-hammer is deployed. Furthermore, in contrast with the earlier Neolithic material, the second group was manufactured using mottled mid-dark grey raw flint with a thin, pale brown cortex, suggesting it was expediently sourced from local gravels probably associated with river terraces.

## **6.4 Animal Bone**

by Julie Curl

### **6.4.1 Methodology**

The bone in this assemblage consisted of hand-collected remains. All of the bone was identified to species wherever possible using a variety of comparative reference material. Where a complete identification to species was not possible, bone was assigned to a group, such as ‘sheep/goat’ or ‘mammal’ whenever possible. The bones were recorded using a modified version of guidelines described in Davis (1992).

Any butchering was recorded, noting the type of butchering, such as cut, chopped or sawn and location of butchering. A note was also made of any burnt bone. Pathologies were also recorded with the type of injury or disease, the element affected and the location on the bone. Other modifications were also recorded, such as any possible industrial or craft working waste or animal gnawing. Measurements were not taken from material in this assemblage as there were no suitable elements available.

Weights and total number of pieces counts were also taken for each context, along with the number of pieces for each individual species present (NISP) and these appear in Appendix 4. As this is a very small assemblage, the information was recorded directly into the table in Appendix 4.

### **6.4.2 The faunal assemblage**

A total of 38g of faunal remains, consisting of three pieces, was recovered from the evaluation excavations. The bone was recovered from three contexts, two of which were ditch fills and one a driveway. Associated finds included prehistoric flint and post-medieval ceramics. Quantification of the assemblage can be seen in Table 1.

Context	Trench	Feature	Weight(g)	Quantity
4	4	Driveway [03]	8	1
8	4	Ditch [07]	23	1
16	3	Ditch [15]	7	1
<b>Totals:</b>			<b>38g</b>	<b>3</b>

Table 1. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by context, Trench number, feature, weight and quantity

The bone from ditch [07]/fill (8) is in reasonable condition, although fragmented from butchering and wear. The remains from driveway [03]/fill (04) and ditch [15]/fill (16) are in poor condition, both fragmented and showing erosion of the surfaces, suggesting poor burial conditions or possibly some weathering prior to burial. None of the bone was burnt and no gnawing was seen on any of the remains.

#### 6.4.2.1 *Species range, modifications*

Two species were identified. Cattle was identified with a chopped juvenile radius in (04) and a chopped adult humerus in (08).

A juvenile sheep/goat metacarpal was found in ditch [15]/fill (16). The ends of the metacarpal were missing and seem to be broken away rather than butchered, as no clear evidence of butchering was seen on the bone. The width of the metacarpal suggests a goat rather than a sheep.

#### 6.4.3 **Conclusions**

This is a very small assemblage in relatively poor condition, of mixed date and may include residual material. The cattle remains are clearly butchered and represent preparation and food waste. The use of the sheep/goat is unclear, but it is likely to be from skinning or food waste. The remains are typical of small assemblages, which are usually dominated by the main domestic food animals.

## **9 U**

Three of the four trenches excavated produced archaeological finds. Activity in this area appears to be confined to the prehistoric and the later post-medieval periods.

Ditch [29], Trench 2, produced only later Neolithic Early Bronze Age flint. Ditch [15], Trench 3, produced only post-medieval material. In Trench 4, ditch [07] produced Early Neolithic flint, and driveway [03] produced post-medieval finds.

## **7.0**

The archaeological evidence, taken with that gained from the NHER search, seems to suggest that the proposed development site was, until the 1950s, agricultural in nature and on the margins of nearby settlement or other activity.

Although there is finds evidence that may suggest that two of the ditches discovered on the site are broadly of prehistoric date, there is not the same level of evidence for this period on the site as there is further to the west, closer to the river Wensum, or to the north. It would seem that whilst these nearby areas were populated and well-used during the prehistoric period, the study site lay on the periphery of prehistoric activity.

The two ditches potentially dated to the prehistoric period are on northeast–southwest and northwest–southeast alignments and suggest some degree of agriculture or land division on the edge of the more intensively occupied areas.

The undated ditch (in Trench 4) that runs parallel to the prehistoric ditch may provide further evidence of the general orientation of ditches. As no dating evidence was recovered from it though, it cannot be said with any certainty whether it was contemporary with its neighbour. Should the two ditches be of the same date, it would be tempting to interpret them as demarking a track way. If the undated ditch is later, it nonetheless would demonstrate continuation of this alignment of land division. One of the ditches in Trench 1 also adopts the same general alignment, but it too is undated.

Two other ditches (one in Trench 1 and one in Trench 3) do not follow the ‘prehistoric alignment’ and are orientated north–south and east–west respectively. Neither yielded any dating evidence. It is possible that a review of aerial photographs and known crop-marks may help to broadly date these features by association.

The impression that the study site occupied the periphery of human activity or settlement seems to persist through the Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval, and post-medieval periods, with evidence for all these periods in NHER data close to the river Wensum and to the west or south towards the medieval village of Hellesdon. It is likely that the proposed development area occupied common land until the enclosures of the 19th century, when it became agricultural. This rural theme continues up to the early 20th century when Carrowbreck House was built, and the mid-20th century when urban Norwich started to reach the edges of site.

The only exception to the rural landscape is the roadway identified in Trenches 3 and 4, which is dated from the artefacts found in it to the 18th/19th century. Although at first it was thought to be an estate-type driveway, cartographic research produced no evidence for such an estate, house or farm to which it may lead. This raises the possibility that it may be part of the original Drayton High Road (the modern road runs 10–15m east of and parallel to the roadway recorded in the evaluation).

Recommendations for mitigation work (if required, based on the evidence presented in this report) will be made by Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

### ***Acknowledgements***

The author would like to thank those listed below for their contribution to this project.

Special thanks are extended to NPS Group who commissioned the work on behalf of Broadland District Council.

Machining of the trenches was undertaken by Karl Weber of Bryn Williams Civil Engineering.

Excavation was undertaken by the author along with Stuart Calow and Nigel Byram.

The evaluation was monitored on behalf of Norfolk Historic Environment Service by James Albone.

The finds were processed and recorded by Rebecca Sillwood. Reports were compiled by Andrew Peachey for the flint and by Julie Curl for the animal bone; all other items were by Rebecca Sillwood.

This report was illustrated by David Dobson and edited by Andrew Crowson.

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Enclosure Map of Hellesdon, 1813 (NRO Ref. C/Sca 2/98)

Ordnance Survey Maps from 1880s onwards (NRO)

Tithe Map of Hellesdon, 1839 (NRO Ref. DN/TA 185)

## Appendix1a:ContextSummary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Notes
1	Deposit			Topsoil	Modern	All
2	Deposit			Subsoil	Uncertain	All
3	Cut	Driveway		Estate driveway	Post-medieval	TR4
4	Deposit		3		Post-medieval	TR4
5	Cut	Ditch		Possible drain	Uncertain	TR4
6	Deposit		5		Uncertain	TR4
7	Cut	Ditch			Prehistoric	TR4
8	Deposit		7		Prehistoric	TR4
9	Cut	Ditch		East of double ditch	Uncertain	TR1
10	Deposit		9		Uncertain	TR1
11	Cut	Ditch		West of double ditch	Uncertain	TR1
12	Deposit		11		Uncertain	TR1
13	Cut	Ditch			Uncertain	TR1
14	Deposit		13		Uncertain	TR1
15	Cut	Ditch			Uncertain	TR3
16	Deposit		15		Uncertain	TR3
17	Cut	Ditch			Uncertain	TR3
18	Deposit		17		Uncertain	TR3
19	Cut	Ditch			Uncertain	TR3
20	Deposit		19		Uncertain	TR3
21	Cut	Ditch			Uncertain	TR3
22	Deposit		21		Uncertain	TR3
23	Cut	Ditch			Uncertain	TR3
24	Deposit		23		Uncertain	TR3
25	Deposit				Uncertain	TR3
26	Cut	Ditch			Uncertain	TR3
27	Deposit		26		Uncertain	TR3
28	Deposit				Uncertain	TR3
29	Cut	Ditch			Prehistoric	TR2
30	Deposit		29		Prehistoric	TR2

## Appendix1b:FeatureSummary

Period	Feature	Total
Prehistoric	Ditch	2
Uncertain	Ditch	4
Post-medieval	Road	1

## Appendix2a:FindsbyContext

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period
4	Animal Bone	1	8g	Unknown
4	Ceramic Building Material	3	102g	Post-medieval
4	Pottery	7	45g	Post-medieval
8	Animal Bone	1	23g	Unknown
8	Flint Struck	4	80g	Early Neolithic
16	Animal Bone	1	7g	Unknown
16	Ceramic Building Material	4	114g	Post-medieval
16	Pottery	3	7g	Post-medieval
30	Flint Struck	5	85g	Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age

## Appendix2b:FindsSummary

Period	Material	Total
Early Neolithic	Flint Struck	4
Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age	Flint Struck	5
Post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material	7
	Pottery	10
Unknown	Animal Bone	3

### Appendix3:Flint

Ctxt	Description	StruckFlint			No.	Wgt (g)	P	R	Colour	Cortex	I?	Size(mm)			Comment
		No.	Wt.	Find/type								L	W	D	
8	Ditch	4	80	Core Fragment	1	63	\	na	dark grey	white chalky	\	50	40	25	deliberately removed with soft-hammer percussion from a cube-like blade core that was rotated with at least three perpendicular platforms (including a faceted butt), presumably to create a new platform
				Tertiary flakes (blade-like, <50mm)	3	17	\	\	dark grey	white chalky	\	\	\	\	blade-like dorsal scars, but less regular profiles
30	Ditch	5	85	End Scraper	1	52	\	yes	dark grey	thin off-white		40	55	20	coarse abrupt retouch to thick bulbar end of wedge shape, hard-hammer struck tertiary flake
				Tertiary flakes (broad-squat, <50mm)	4	33	\	\	dark grey	thin pale brown	\	\	\	\	hard hammer struck
					9	165									

P = patinated; R = retouched



#### Appendix4:AnimalBone

Context		ContextQty	Wt(g)	Species	NISP	Adult	Juvenile	Neonatal	Element range	Chopped	Cut	Comments
4		1	8	Cattle	1	-	1	-	Radius	1		Some surface erosion
8		1	23	Cattle	1	1	-	-	Humerus	1		Distal humerus and part of shaft
16		1	7	Sheep/ goat	1	-	1	-	Metacarpal			Some surface erosion of bone, distal and proximal ends missing. Breadth of bone suggests it is probably goat.

**Appendix5:OASISReportSummary**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: norfolka1-196624**

### Project details

Project name	Trial Trench Evaluation at Carrowbreck, Hellesdon, Norfolk
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was conducted for NPS Group on behalf of Broadland District Council ahead of housing development works at Carrowbreck, Drayton High Road in Hellesdon, Norfolk. The evaluation consisted of four trenches measuring 15.00m long x 1.80m wide. Each trench contained archaeological remains and a total of 10 features were recorded. The features were all linear, the majority probably representing field boundary ditches. Based on dating evidence, two of the linear features could tentatively be of prehistoric origin, but most of the ditches cannot be dated. One feature-interpreted as a road-ran across two adjacent trenches. It is unclear whether this was an estate driveway or possibly the route of the original Drayton High Road.
Project dates	Start: 26-11-2014 End: 28-11-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	135676 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Woodland 3 - Mixed
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	ROAD Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	CERAMICS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Neolithic
Significant Finds	FLINT Early Neolithic
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF Between deposition of an application and determination

Position in the  
planning process

### Project location

Country England  
 Site location NORFOLK NORWICH NORWICH Carrowbreck Project  
 Study area 0.91 Hectares  
 Site coordinates TG 1969 1221 52.6625306843 1.24907700022 52 39 45 N 001 14 56 E Point  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 21.70m Max: 21.70m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation NPS Archaeology  
 Project brief originator Norfolk Historic Environment Service  
 Project design originator NPS Archaeology  
 Project director/manager R. Brown  
 Project supervisor NPS Archaeology

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Norfolk Museums Service  
 Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"  
 Digital Archive recipient NPS Archaeology  
 Digital Contents "other"  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient Norfolk Museums Service  
 Paper Contents "other"  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Carrowbreck, Drayton High Road, Hellesdon, Norfolk  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Brown, R.  
 Other bibliographic details 2015/1285  
 Date 2015  
 Issuer or publisher NPS Archaeology

Place of issue or  
publication     Norwich

Entered by         A. Crowson (andrew.crowson@nps.co.uk)

Entered on         2 February 2015